

A stimulating, brisk walk for your dog will go a long way to relaxing him or her and will also benefit you as well.

Giving your dog some stimulating activities to do while you are gone will help occupy his or her idle mind. A Kong Toy or Buster Cube will keep your dog working and occupied with less time to think about “The Great Escape”.

If you place your dog in the backyard when you leave, do not make it a major event. Save the hugs and kisses for later in the evening when you are interacting with your dog. This will only serve to create anxieties in the dog, as it will begin to cue him or her that you are leaving before you even walk out the door.

If you have tried every humane method that you can think of to prevent your dog from escaping, you may want to consider professional help from a qualified behaviorist who can assist you in determining what the cause of the behavior is and how best to address it. Caution should be taken to employ methods that are not only abusive in nature but counter-productive to correcting the undesired behavior.

**Maricopa County**  
**Animal Care & Control**  
**DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES**



**Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (AC&C)** is a full service animal welfare organization with centers, adoptions, field services, licensing, and education programs. We are happy to offer low cost, humane dog training education. Through a partnership with Canine Educational Services of the Southwest, a professional training organization, **AC&C** provides classes at both West and East Locations.

**For More Information call**  
**602-506-3471**

This Behavior Pamphlet was  
written and created by:

**Gary J. DeGeronimo, Sr.**  
Canine Behaviorist

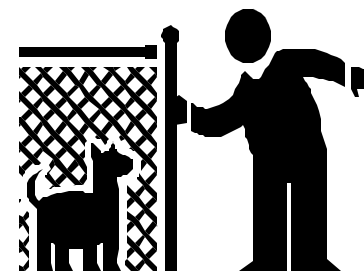


The Four Paws Inn  
Phoenix, Arizona

**www.thefourpawsinn.com**  
**Phone: (602) 789-1637**

# ESCAPING

***“THE GREAT  
HOUDINI”***



*Maricopa County Animal Care & Control, an organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the health, safety and welfare of pets and people in Maricopa County.*

**Maricopa County**  
**Animal Care & Control**

PHOENIX  
2323 South 35th Avenue  
(Durango & 35th Avenue)  
Phoenix, AZ 85009

MESA  
2630 West 8th Street  
(Loop 101 & 8th St.)

PHOENIX  
Pet Adoption Center  
5231 N. 35th Avenue  
(Between Camelback & Missouri)



602-506-PETS  
pets.maricopa.gov

Escaping from a backyard area is generally accomplished either by jumping or tunneling; of course, assuming the gate is closed and secured. The act of escaping from a yard usually means one of two things: One, your dog is trying to go somewhere, or two, your dog is trying to get away from something. Understanding what causes your dog to exit the premises will help in correcting the behavior and keeping him within the confines of your property.

In the case of the dog that is trying to go somewhere, his fleeing the premises may be his way of trying to find YOU. Some dogs will escape the backyard only to go to the front porch area and lay down waiting for the owners to return.

It may be that there are other dogs roaming the neighborhood and your dog may want to join in the pack. Or perhaps the children next door have fed the dog at one time or another and he is simply trying to find the food source once again.



In the case of the dog that is trying to get away from something, it may be something as simple as boredom of confinement due to perhaps lack of exercise or interaction with people.

Whatever the case may be, there are a few steps you can take to prevent your dog from scaling the fence or tunneling his way under the fence.

For the Olympic high jumper, consider burying a piece of chicken wire about a quarter inch under the dirt in the location of the escapes. With a surface that feels uncomfortable for jumping, the dog will probably think twice about the jump. Another method would be constructing a second, smaller fence about eighteen inches high and about thirty-six inches or so away from the existing fence. This will prevent the dog from getting that running start to make his final leap.



You may also want to make sure there are no structures up against the fence that will give your dog that extra boost over the top, such as a dog house or wood pile.

For the under the fence digger, you can place some material (plywood or cement garden dividers) four or five inches below the surface to hinder the digging process.

The above methods are meant to prevent your dog from escaping but do not address eliminating the escaping behavior itself. You will need to take time to investigate why your dog is leaving, where does he go, what was your reaction to his leaving when you found him?

Before the problem begins, you can do some things to perhaps prevent the behavior from starting at all. Make sure your dog has the appropriate exercise he or she needs. Simply throwing a ball back and forth in the backyard for a Dalmatian or Terrier may not be sufficient.

